Dumping of Jute Bags by Bangladesh

2286. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation (NJMC) has been losing about Rs. 200 crores annually, since it was nationalised;

(b) whether inspite of surplus stocks of the jute bags, Government continue to allow import of the same from Bangladesh;

(c) whether Bangladesh is dumping its surplus stocks in India, thus adversely affecting profitability of NJMC and other jute mills; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Most of the NJMC mills were incurring losses when they were taken under the Industry (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. The cash loss incurred by NJMC in the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Cash loss (Rs. in Lakhs)
1996-97	10221.00
1997-98	8324.00
1998-99	11295.00 (Provisional)

(b) to (d) The Government has allowed import of jute goods from Bangladesh under preferential import tariff scheme for SAARC countries at the reduced import tariff of 16% (60% reduction from normal tariff) plus 10% surcharge. However, the total import of jute goods from Bangladesh in comparison to the total domestic production is negligible as it is less than one percent. The reduction of import duty on jute goods from Bangladesh is therefore likely to have little impact on the Indian Jute Industry.

The Government is closely monitoring the situation is consultation with the O/o Jute Commissioner and Jute Manufactures Development Council. The Government also reviews the Jute Licensing and Control Order, 1961 and import duty on raw jute from time to time to deal with the situation arising out of unrestricted import of jute goods.

Spinning Mills in Assam

2287. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spinning mills in Assam;

(b) the number of persons working in these mills, district-wise;

(c) the funds allocated to the mills during the last five years, till date; and

(d) the details of facilities being provided to weavers by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are six Cotton/Man-made fibre textile spining mills (Non-SSI) in the state of Assam as on 30.9.99, out of which there is one NTC Mill, a PSU under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles.

(b) The number of persons working in these mills, district-wise, as on 30.9.99 are as follows:

District	No. of the workers
Kamrup (NTC)	182
Sonitpur	942
Malbari	569
Bongaigaon	215
Morigaon	501
Golghat	151

(c) The Ministry of Textiles does not provide financial assistance to the private and co-operative sector mills. The financial assistance given to NTC mill (one) during the last five years are as follows:

Year	Rupees in Lakh
1994-95	150.59
1995-96	183.30
1996-97	246.10
1997-98	555.88
1998-99	173.02

(d) For Powerloom Sector, Government has set up 43 Powerloom Service Centres and 17 Computer Aided Design Centres in different parts of the country to impart training to powerloom weavers. In addition, group insurance scheme for powerloom workers has been introduced by Government in association with LIC.

The Government of India, through the Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles extends financial assistance under various developmental and welfare schemes to the State Governments for the benefit of handlooms weavers. The schemes include Project Package, Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing, Workshed-cum-Housing, Health Package, etc.